

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 02261 051230Z

51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 035076

O 051150Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9225

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

USSAG IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 2261

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF AND JCS

SECSTATE FOR ASST SECY HABIB

JCS FOR GENL BROWN

CINCPAC FOR ADMIRAL GAYLER

USSAG FOR LT GENL BURNS

SECDEF FOR VON MARBOD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MASS, MMOL, CB

SUBJ: LATEST MEKONG CONVOY ABORTED OWING TO MINES

1. FEBRUARY 5 EFFORT TO BREAK KC BLOCKADE OF MEKONG ABORTED.
TWO AMMUNITION BARGES PULLED BY FOUR TUGS RAN INTO MINES
SOUTH OF PEAM REANG ISLAND. ONLY ONE TUG SURVIVED; THREE
OTHERS ARE EITHER SUNK OR BEACHED. ONE AMMUNITION BARGE
IS BEING TOWED BACK INTO VIETNAMESE WATERS BY ONE TUG STILL
IN COMMISSION. THE OTHER BARGE IS BEING PUSHED BACK OVER
THE BORDER TO SAFETY BY MNK ESCORT CRAFT. SEVERAL
MNK ESCORT CRAFT WERE ALSO SUNK OR CRIPPLED IN THIS
EFFORT TO RUN BLOCKADE.

2. MAJOR GENERAL HUNT, DEPUTY COMMANDER USSAG, IS
PRESENTLY IN SAIGON ATTENDING CONFERENCE WITH
REPRESENTATIVES FROM WASHINGTON, USSAG, SAIGON
AND PHNOM PENH ON WAYS TO BREAK KC STRANGLEHOLD OVER THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PHNOM 02261 051230Z

MEKONG. HE IS EXPLORING WAYS OF PROCURING MINESWEEPERS

FOR KHMER NAVY AND DISCUSSING WILLINGNESS OF TUG CAPTAINS TO MAKE ANOTHER TRY IN THE FUTURE. EVEN IF ALL THESE TECHNICAL DETAILS ARE WORKED OUT SATISFACTORILY, WE CANNOT ENVISION ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO RUN THE GAUNTLET FOR AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS.

3. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WAYS CAN BE FOUND TO NEUTRALIZE MINES AND ANOTHER CONVOY CAN BE PUT TOGETHER, FANK FORCES ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG NEAR PEAM REAN ISLAND MUST BE SUBSTANTIALLY REINFORCED TO SILENCE KC FIRE EMANATING FROM THAT AREA. THIS REQUIRES TRANSFERRING ADDITIONAL TROOPS, EQUIVALENT OF ONE INTERVENTION BRIGADE, TO THAT POSITION. CINC/FANK SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ WILL FROM WHERE FANK CAN WITHDRAW THIS ONE BRIGADE FOR INSERTION ON THE LOWER MEKONG. IT WILL PROBABLY MEAN WITHDRAWING THE EFFECTIVE MILITARY PROTECTION FROM ONE ENCLAVE SINCE CONSTITUTED BRIGADES OUTSIDE OF PHNOM PENH ARE PRESENTLY LOCATED ONLY IN KOMPONG CHAM (85TH BRIGADE) AND SIEM REAP (10TH BRIGADE). THE WITHDRAWAL OF SUCH A BRIGADE FROM AN ENCLAVE MAY WELL MEAN SACRIFICING THAT AREA TO THE ENEMY. I AM PLANNING TO SEE MARSHAL TOMORROW, ACCOMPANIED BY MY SENIOR ADVISERS, IN ORDER TO EXPLORE WITH HIM THE ALTERNATIVES.

4. IN THE MEANTIME IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE BIRD AIR CONTRACT BE AUGMENTED TO PERMIT 20 AIR LANDINGS IN PHNOM PENH INSTEAD OF THE 10 PRESENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE CONTRACT. THIS WILL MAINTAIN AMMO STOCKS GIVING US TIME TO SEARCH FOR SOLUTION ON THE MEKONG. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING ADDRESSEES CAN DO TO EXPEDITE PROMPT REVISION OF CONTRACT.
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLIES, WATERWAY ACCESS, MILITARY TRANSPORTATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM02261
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750041-1107
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750270/aaaackxr.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LATEST MEKONG CONVOY ABORTED OWING TO MINES
TAGS: MOPS, MASS, MMOL, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006